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PTO/SB/21 (modified)

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Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

0001/PTO Rev. 10/95	U.S. Department of Commerce Patent and Trademark Office		
TRANSMITTAL FORM			
(to be used for all correspondence during pendency of filed application)			
		Application Number	10/660,984
		Filing Date	September 12, 2003
		First Named Inventor	Steven W. Meeks
		Group Art Unit Number	2877
		Examiner Name	T. Nguyen
Total Number of Pages in This Submission	8	Attorney Docket Number	20830-08288

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Attorney/Reg. No.:	Nathan Huynh/Reg. No. 53,052	Dated: October 23, 2003

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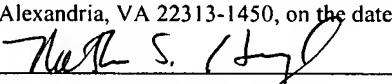
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT: Steven W. Meeks and Rusmin Kudinar
APPLICATION NO.: 10/660,984
FILING DATE: September 12, 2003
TITLE: System and Method For Simultaneously Measuring Thin Film Layer Thickness, Reflectivity, Roughness, Surface Profile & Magnetic Pattern On Thin Film Magnetic Disks & Silicon Wafers
EXAMINER: T. Nguyen
GROUP ART UNIT: 2877
ATTY. DKT. NO.: 20830-08288

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Dated: October 23, 2003

By: 

Nathan Huynh, Reg. No.: 53,052

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P.O. BOX 1450
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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
Under 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98

SIR:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR §§ 1.56 and 1.97-98, enclosed herewith is modified form PTO/SB/08A listing references for consideration by the Examiner. Enclosed is a copy of each listed reference that may be material to the examination of this application, and for which there may be a duty to disclose.

The filing of this Information Disclosure Statement shall not be construed as a representation regarding the completeness of the list of references, or that inclusion of a reference in this list is an admission that it is prior art or is pertinent to this application, or that a search has been made, or as an admission that the information listed is, or may be considered to be, material to patentability, or that no other material information exists, and shall not be construed as an admission against interest in any manner.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed:

within three months of the filing date of the application, or date of entry into the national stage of an international application, or before the mailing date of a first office action on the merits, whichever event last occurred;

- before the mailing of a first official action after the filing of a request for continued examination (RCE) under 37 CFR § 1.114;
- after three months of the filing date of this national application or the date of entry of the national stage in an international application, or after the mailing date of the first official action on the merits, whichever event last occurred, but before the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; or (2) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
 - attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(c); OR
 - Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.97(e) that:
 - each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; OR
 - no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement;
- on or before the payment of the issue fee but after the mailing date of the first to occur of either: (1) a final action under 37 CFR § 1.113; (2) a notice of allowance under 37 CFR § 1.311; or (3) an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and:
 - Applicant certifies pursuant to 37 CFR. § 1.97(e) that:
 - each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; or
 - no item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a

foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing this certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in this Statement was known to any individual designated under 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this Statement; AND

- attached hereto is the fee set forth under 37 CFR § 1.17(p) for submission of this Information Disclosure Statement under 37 CFR. § 1.97(c); OR
- after the payment of the issue fee. Applicant requests that the information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement be placed in the file according to 37 CFR § 1.97(i), although the information may not be considered by the USPTO.
- This application relies, under 35 U.S.C. § 120, on the earlier filing date of prior application No. APPLICATION NO., filed on DATE FILED, and the references cited therein are hereby referenced, but are not required to be provided in this application under 37 CFR § 1.98(d).
- Each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart application, and the communication was not received by any individual designated in 37 CFR § 1.56(c) more than thirty days prior to the filing of this Information Disclosure Statement. 37 CFR § 1.704(d).
- Applicant submits that no fee is required for the consideration of this Information Disclosure Statement.

Consideration of the listed references and favorable action are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
STEVEN W. MEEKS & RUSMIN KUDINAR

Dated: October 23, 2003

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Substitute for form 1449A/PTO

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

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Complaint if Known	
Application No.	10/660,984
Filing Date	September 12, 2003
First Named Inventor	Steven W. Meeks
Art Unit	2877
Examiner Name	T. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	20830-08288

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

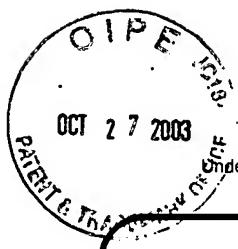
		Document No.		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Number – Kind Code ² (if known)	Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
	A1	3,885,875	05/27/1975	Rosenfeld et al.
	A2	4,332,477	06/01/1982	Sato
	A3	4,585,348	04/29/1986	Chastang et al.
	A4	4,668,860	05/26/1987	Anthon
	A5	4,870,631	09/26/1989	Stoddard
	A6	4,873,430	10/10/1989	Juliana et al.
	A7	5,017,012	05/21/1991	Merritt, Jr. et al.
	A8	5,129,724	07/14/1992	Brophy et al.
	A9	5,189,481	02/23/1993	Jann et al.
	A10	5,196,906	03/23/1993	Stover et al.
	A11	5,270,794	12/14/1993	Tsuji et al.
	A12	5,293,216	03/08/1994	Moslehi
	A13	5,313,542	05/17/1994	Castonguay
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	A16	5,446,549	08/29/1995	Mazumder et al.
	A17	5,463,897	11/07/1995	Prater et al.
	A18	5,608,527	03/04/1997	Valliant et al.
	A19	5,610,897	03/11/1997	Yamamoto et al.
	A20	5,633,747	05/27/1997	Nikoonahad
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	A22	5,694,214	12/02/1997	Watanabe et al.
	A23	5,726,455	03/10/1998	Vurens
	A24	5,748,305	05/05/1998	Shimono et al.
	A25	5,777,740	07/07/1998	Lacey et al.
	A26	5,798,829	08/25/1998	Vaez-Iravani
	A27	5,864,394	01/26/1999	Jordan, III et al.
	A28	5,875,029	02/23/1999	Jann et al.
	A29	5,880,838	03/09/1999	Marx et al.
	A30	5,903,342	05/11/1999	Yatsugake et al.

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609.

Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.



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Complete if Known

Application No.	10/660,984
Filing Date	September 12, 2003
First Named Inventor	Steven W. Meeks
Art Unit	2877
Examiner Name	T. Nguyen

Attorney Docket Number 20830-08288

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document No.	Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
A31	5,951,891	09/14/1999	Barenboim et al.	
A32	5,978,091	11/02/1999	Jann et al.	
A33	5,985,680	11/16/1999	Singhal et al.	
A34	5,986,761	11/16/1999	Crawforth et al.	
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A40	6,107,637	08/22/2000	Watanabe et al.	
A41	6,118,525	09/12/2000	Fossey et al.	
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A52	6,509,966B2	01/21/2003	Ishiguro et al.	
A53	6,542,248B1	04/01/2003	Schwarz	
A54	6,603,542	08/2003	Chase et al.	

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

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PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

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U.S. Patent and Trademark Office: U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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First Named Inventor	Steven W. Meeks
Art Unit	2877
Examiner Name	T. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	
20830-08288	

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		Document No.		
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Number – Kind Code ² (if known)	Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Foreign Patent Document			
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Country Code ³ – Number ⁴ Kind Code ⁵ (if known)	Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document	T ⁶
	B1	WO 98/52019	11/19/1998	Technische Universiteit Delft	
	B2	JP 3-221804	09/30/1991	NEC Corp	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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20830/08288/DOCS/1386317.1

OCT 27 2003

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**

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Complete if Known	
Application No.	10/660,984
Filing Date	September 12, 2003
First Named Inventor	Steven W. Meeks
Art Unit	2877
Examiner Name	T. Nguyen
Attorney Docket Number	20830-08288

OTHER REFERENCES – NON-PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city and/or country where published	T ⁶
	C1	W.C. Leung, W. Crooks, H. Rosen and T. Strand, <i>An Optical Method Using a Laser and an Integrating Sphere Combination for Characterizing the Thickness Profile of Magnetic Media</i> , Sept. 1989, IEEE Transaction on Magnetics, Vol. 25, No. 5. Pages 3659-3661.	
	C2	Steven W. Meeks, Walter E. Weresin, and Hal J. Rosen, <i>Optical Surface Analysis of the Head-Disk-Interface of Thin Film Disks</i> , January 1995, Transactions of the ASME, Journal of Tribology, Vol. 117, pages 112-118.	
	C3	Steven Meeks, Maxtor and Rusmin Kudinar, <i>The Next Battleground: Head-Disk Interface</i> , March 1998, Data Storage, Test & Measurement, pages 29-30, 34 and 38.	
	C4	<i>Laser Scanning Surface Profilometer</i> , [online], August 1970, [retrieved January 29, 2001], Pages 789-790, Retrieved from the Internet: <URL: http://www.delphion.com/t dbs/tdb?&order=7OC101758.	
	C5	Meeks, Steven W.: "A Combined Ellipsometer, Reflectometer, Scatterometer and Kerr Effect Microscope for Thin Film Disk Characterization," Machine Vision Applications in Industrial Inspection VIII, Proceedings of SPIE, vol. 3966, 2000, pages 385-391, XP001085220.	

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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